

DD/M&S 73-4719

10 DEC 1973

25X1A

MEMORANDUM FOR: Legislative Counsel

STATINTL

ATTENTION : [REDACTED]

SUBJECT : Claims Legislation

Pat:

1. Harold Brownman and myself spoke on this matter of claims limitation shortly before he left on his current TDY. He is most interested in following the matter of raising the limitation from \$6,500 to \$12,000.

2. I understand the point you raise that on matters such as this pending legislation the Agency likes to keep a low profile. However, could you be good enough to keep monitoring this matter rather closely and keep us advised. Also, if you have any ideas how we can be helpful, we will be pleased to entertain them.

[REDACTED]

STATINTL

John F. Blake
Associate Deputy Director
for
Management and Services

Att

Cy of MFR dtd 16 Nov 73 by
same subj as above.

[REDACTED]

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Claims Legislation

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1. Over the past weeks I have had a number of conversations with [REDACTED] Office of Legislative Counsel, regarding the possibility of having the Agency's claim authorization raised from the present \$6,500 limitation. According to [REDACTED] there is presently a bill in congress (HR 7135) which would raise the claims authorization for all agencies to \$12,000. The Office of Management and Budget currently has action for this bill and has asked several agencies for their comments on it. (For some reason, this Agency was not asked to comment.) [REDACTED] believes the State Department now represents an obstacle to the passing of HR 7135 because it is pressing for equality between military and civilian agencies in all provisions of the claims act.

2. [REDACTED] has frequently repeated in our conversations that the Agency's position on legislation is to be very low key and to stay in the background. He said the Agency is extremely hesitant in pressing anything with Congress which could precipitate the opening of other matters pertaining to the Agency. He suggested, though, that if the Claims Review Board wishes to pursue the authorization increase vigorously, the best way to begin would be a memorandum stating our position to the DD/M&S and seeking his support in pursuing the matter through the Office of Legislative Counsel.

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3. Prior to that action, however, [REDACTED] believed it would be worthwhile to follow up with the State Department in an attempt to free HR 7135. (Apparently, that bill would have a good chance of being passed if it were not for the State Department snag.) I told [REDACTED] I had a State Department claims contact and would ask him (Erwin Eversen) what he knew of the bill. Mr. Eversen was aware of the bill and believed State's

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position was that the same rules on claims should apply to military and civilian agencies. Mr. Eversen recommended that the subject be taken up with State's Congressional Liaison Staff (Mr. Thomas Gilliland on 101-28429). I gave Mr. Gilliland's name and number to [REDACTED] and asked that he check with State so that the matter could be kept on the congressional-liaison level. He agreed to do so and will keep us informed on the status of the bill.

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